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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

February 24, 1978.

Dr. Luis Leloir  
Instituto de Investigaciones Bioquimicas  
Obligado 2490  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Dr. Leloir:

I deeply appreciate your gracious offer to assist Drs. Christian Anfinsen and Robert P. Perry on their visit to Argentina on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Human Rights. They come to Argentina as scientists who are committed to the advancement of knowledge in their disciplines and deeply concerned that the practice of science is increasingly circumscribed and manipulated in so many places today. As you may know I have been speaking out against restrictions which are infringing upon the pursuit of science and upon the freedom to communicate the results of scientific investigation. Anfinsen and Perry hope to discuss with you and other Argentine scientists some of these problems as they are manifest today in Argentina. They will be in Buenos Aires to listen and observe, to gain new perspectives and to report what they have learned back to the Academy.

A central concern in this visit is the disappearance, imprisonment, or proscription of certain Argentine scientists in recent years. Increasingly, members of the Academy and other scientists in this country express to me their concern for colleagues in Argentina. However, our information is usually incomplete. We are aware that the political situation has been unstable and that anarchists have used the opportunity to terrorize the general population. Recently I was told by Dr. Andrés Santas and by Mr. E. Q. Daddario (President of the AAAS) that the situation is much improved. But we continue to be plagued with doubts when we hear about still frequent disappearance of individuals, slow release of information about prisoners held under executive authority and the anti-intellectual movement that is so often exhibited. You would do us and your colleagues a great service by helping us to understand the real situation in Argentina today.

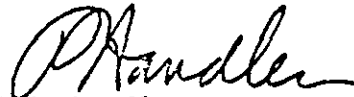
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
☒ Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full  
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Dr. Luís Leloir  
February 24, 1978  
Page Two

I look forward to an early opportunity to discuss with you recent developments in biochemistry. I also feel the need to exchange ideas about our responsibilities as leaders in the scientific community in these complex and baffling times. Meanwhile, I trust that you will enjoy the visit of Drs. Anfinsen and Perry and that you will accept my thanks for your assistance to them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Handler", with a stylized, cursive script.

Philip Handler  
President